

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04050 210937Z

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ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CU-04 (ISO) W

----- 103079

R 210915Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6535

INFO AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

AMCONSUL TABRIZ

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4050

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, IR

SUBJECT: RETURNING STUDENTS

REF: STATE 103352

1. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, EMBASSY DROPPING TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENT FOR RETURNING STUDENTS, UNTIL DEPT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE. HOWEVER, LOCAL TRANSCRIPTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED FROM FIRST-TIME STUDENTS.

2. TRANSCRIPT OR CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN LONG-STANDING PRACTICE AT THIS EMBASSY UNDER 22 CFR 41.111A. THE VAST MAJORITY OF RETURNING STUDENTS HAVE NO DIFFICULTY OBTAINING TRANSCRIPTS, BUT IN RELATIVELY FEW INSTANCES WHERE THEY CAN NOT, THEY PRESENT INSTEAD CERTIFICATES FROM SCHOOLS REGARDING INCLUSIVE DATES OF FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE. THESE ARE RELATIVELY EASY TO OBTAIN AND OFTEN IN THE POSSESSION OF MANY PRESENT RETURNING STUDENT APPLICANTS WHO ROUTINELY REQUEST THEM BEFORE DEPARTING US.

3. AS DEPT AWARE, IRANIAN STUDENTS ARE IN HIGH-RISK CATEGORY RE BONA FIDES IN THAT DISTURBINGLY HIGH PERCENTAGE DROP OUT OF SCHOOL TO ACCEPT UNAUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT. FURTHER, EMBASSY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR ONE, TWO OR EVEN SEVERAL YEARS HAVE NONETHELESS EASILY BEEN ABLE OBTAIN I-20 EITHER FROM PREVIOUS SCHOOL OR FROM SCHOOL TO WHICH THEY CLAIM TO BE TRANSFERRING. WITHOUT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY TRANSCRIPT OR CERTIFICATE CITED PARA 2, CONSULAR OFFICER WILL NO LONGER

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HAVE KEY CLUE AS TO WHETHER APPLICANT IS INTENDING STUDENT, INTEN-

DING WORKER OR INTENDING IMMIGRANT.

4. CONSULAR SECTION HOPES THAT IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE WILL TAKE UP SLACK OF WEAKENED TEHRAN CONTROLS ON RETURNING STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT CURTAILING FOREIGN STUDENT EMPLOYMENT IN US EVEN IN SUMMER. IRANIAN PRESS IN REACTION TO INS BLANKET ABOLITION OF PERMISSION FOR F-1 STUDENTS TO WORK IN US

, HAS NOTED THAT QUOTE THOUSANDS WILL BE STRANDED UNQUOTE, SINCE MAJORITY OF F-1 APPLICANTS HERE ROUTINELY EXPECT TO FINANCE STAY IN US THROUGH EMPLOYMENT THERE. DROPPING OF TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN DRASTIC INCREASE IN NUMBER OF THOSE WHO SUCCEED IN REALIZING THIS INTENTION. DESPITE RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF FINANCIAL SCREENING BY F-1 INTERVIEWING OFFICERS, THOSE WHO PLAN TO WORK IN US WILL ATTEMPT TO DO SO REGARDLESS OF THEORETICAL CAPABILITY OF THEIR AFFILIANTS TO FINANCE THEIR US STAY.

5. RE APPOINTMENTS: EMB RELUCTANTLY RESORTS TO TWO-VISIT APPOINTMENT SCHEME DESCRIBED REFTEL IN ORDER TO AVOID CHAOS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM STUDENTS STAMPEDING INTO CRAMPED VISA AREA FACING UNDERMANNED STAFF.

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